

**CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE—Fundamentals, Differential Diagnosis, Prognosis and Treatment.** By Louis H. Sigler, M.D., Attending Cardiologist and Chief of Cardiac Clinic, Coney Island Hospital; Consulting Cardiologist, Menorah Home and Hospital for the Aged. Grune and Stratton, New York, 1949. \$10.00.

This book is an excellent addition to the physician's library. It represents an up-to-date discussion of cardiac disease by an established authority on the subject.

The book has several features which may be of particular interest to the reader. The first few chapters are concerned with general incidence, essential anatomical features, physiological principles of the circulation, data on the normal-sized heart and its measurements and a discussion of cardiac enlargement as such. In addition, chapters on normal and abnormal heart sounds, murmurs, and arterial and venous pulse tracings combine with advantage in one text the anatomy, physiology, and physical diagnosis, as well as the clinical features of heart disease. There is an excellent bibliography at the end of each chapter, and the author has used discrimination in selecting pertinent references. Electrocardiography is dismissed with minimal discussion because of the author's previous volume on the subject. The chapter on paroxysmal cerebral ischemia is particularly good as one might expect from the author's investigations dealing with this subject.

The style is pleasing and the author frequently describes a pertinent case to illustrate by example a specific point in his discussion.

There are a few discussions in which the author fails to present opposing views, such as on page 117 where he states that quinidine should never be used when auricular fibrillation is chronic and persistent, associated with mitral stenosis or other organic heart disease. With such minor exceptions the opinions expressed by the author do not differ significantly from those expressed in other textbooks of the subject.

Sigler's book can be recommended to all physicians.

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**MEDICINE—VOLUME 2—DIAGNOSIS, PREVENTION AND TREATMENT.** By A. E. Clark, M.D., Fellow Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Md., 1949. \$7.00.

The first volume of Clark-Kennedy's treatise on medicine (reviewed in *CALIFORNIA MEDICINE*, 68:405, May 1948) was concerned with the individual patient, the disease which afflicted him and his reaction to that disease.

The second volume is concerned with the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of disease. It is divided into six chapters: Clinical Diagnosis; Special Investigation; Disturbance of Function; Reactions of the Mind; Pathological Processes; and the Practice of Medicine.

The physician who may wish to see medicine as a whole will do well to take the time to read this book which surveys his profession in its entirety. The author's approach is that of a series of short monographs based on broad principles. Within a disciplined outline, he allows his thoughts to range freely—with stimulating results. For the man who does not wish to peruse the complete book, the chapter summaries, again as in Volume One, epitomize the facts and the philosophy, although they leave them bare.

With regard to specific problems, the different parts of the book bring up questions which the practitioner encounters one day or another almost every week. The problems are mentioned, a few answers are suggested, the rest is left up to the reader. On some of these specific problems, particularly in therapy, the reader may—as the reviewer does—part company with the author. However, the reviewer never read any part of the book without feeling that it had been worthwhile and stimulating.

**QUICK REFERENCE BOOK FOR MEDICINE AND SURGERY.** A Clinical, Diagnostic, and Therapeutic Digest of General Medicine, Surgery, and the Specialties. Compiled Systematically from Modern Literature by George E. Rehberger, A.B., M.D. 14th Edition. J. B. Lippincott Company, 1949. \$20.00.

The title of this volume expresses precisely what it is—a quick reference book of medicine and surgery. In its more than 1,700 pages, the entire scope of clinical medicine is encompassed. It is divided into ten principal sections. Here the diseases most likely to be met in practice are listed alphabetically. An interesting feature is the inclusion of the derivations of most of the principal medical terms. An eleventh section is given over to a summary of clinical pharmacology.

There is a tremendous breadth to the book but, necessarily, little depth. Almost anything which the practical physician may wish to look up is to be found. The discussions include a mixture of the old and the new, and the reader may need a good deal of discernment and discrimination to evaluate what he finds. Some of the therapy is outmoded: For example, aspirin is recommended as the chief agent for the itching of dermatitis venenata; the treatment of syphilis is outdated by at least three years.

The book can be of considerable use to the general practitioner who is too busy to look up a subject at length, but cannot be recommended for students. Reviewer's note: Any medical reader choosing one single clinical reference—with brief but pointed information—to take with him to a desert island, might well select this book.

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**SYPHILIS: ITS COURSE AND MANAGEMENT.** By Evan W. Thomas, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine, New York University College of Medicine. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1949. \$5.50.

This book represents a new departure in texts on syphilis. The method of presentation is quite different from that used in the previous standard texts, and the new presentation is a great improvement over the old.

The author has probably had a wider clinical experience with syphilis than almost any other investigator, and the material used in the text is taken almost entirely from his own clinic at Bellevue Hospital in New York and is not summarized from the literature as is the usual custom.

The clinical course of the disease is described briefly but clearly, and the reader is spared the customary minute and wordy descriptions of the rarer lesions of syphilis and the endless lists of other disorders that may enter into the differential diagnosis of syphilis.

The general course of untreated syphilis is described, and the clinical manifestations of the various stages are correlated with the pathological processes induced by the *Treponema pallidum*.

In a brief but excellent chapter on immunology, the difficulties in distinguishing reinfection, relapse and superinfection are discussed and the falsity of the old Neisserian theory that reinfection is proof of previous cure is emphasized.

The diagnosis of syphilis by means of the serologic tests is considered, together with an excellent discussion of false positive reactions, and the difficulties involved in interpretation of serologic tests. Various patterns of response to therapy are illustrated with case reports from the Bellevue clinic.

The various stages of syphilis are discussed chronologically with brief but adequate clinical descriptions followed by treatment recommendations, largely based on Dr. Thomas' huge personal experience. Arsenic, bismuth and the iodides are mentioned only to be rejected, as the author believes that penicillin alone is at least as good as, and probably better than, any previous form of therapy, and that peni-